(b) and (c) For Haj '97, it has been decided to have three categories of accommodation for Indian pilgrims, located, respectively, at upto 600 metres, upto 800 metres and between 801 metres and 1200 metres from the Haram Sharief at Makkah. The process of procurement of the accommodation is currently underway and over 42,000 units have already been selected so far. Work with regard to selection of remaining units is being undertaken by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah, with the help of the Building Selection team which is currently in Jeddah.

Investment AT&T in Cellular Phone Network

2753. SHRI RAMD AS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to

(a) whether it is a fact that AT&T is to invest $ 105 bn. in India over the next ten years to complete its cellular phone network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount so far required to be paid by the company as licence fee to the Department of Telecommunications and the number of subscribers enrolled till date and target of enrolment set in next ten years; and

(c) whether master switching centres have been set up by the Company in collaboration with the Aditya Vikram Birla group; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERM A): (a) No such information has been received by the Government.

(b) M/s Birla Communications Ltd., have been licensed to provide Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Gujarat and Maharashtra Territorial Telecom Circles and M/s. AT & T is a foreign partner in this company. The amount of licence fee payable for first year is Rs. 313.80 crores and over a period of 10 years is Rs. 3451.80 crores. As per the information received from the licensee company, they have enrolled 4600 subscribers till date in Maharastra and Gujarat Circles. The ten year targets as indicated by the licensee company are given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below).

(c) Mobile Switching Centres (MSCs) have been installed in Pune, Gandhinagar and Penjim as per the company.

Statement

Birla Communications Ltd.

Subscribers projections over 10 years

S1. No.	Year	Projected Subscribers
1.	1996	10000
2.	1997	67200
3.	1998	133920
4.	1999	209011
5.	3000	298332
6.	2001	408472
7.	2002	544420
8.	2003	714446
9.	2004	913434
10.	2005	1149792

Refusal to Part Payment of PLI

2754. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that part payment of PLI is done by the concerned post offices;

* (b) if so, the circumstances in which post offices can deny part payments after clearance by APMG (PLI);

(c) the details of policy holders who have been refused part payments even after clearance by APMG (PLI) in November, 1996 by Sarojini Nagar (H.O.) post office;

(d) whether any complaints have been received by Chief PMG, Jhandewalan, New Delhi; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Part payment in respect of Anticipated Endowment Assurance only is made by the concerned post office on the basis of sanction issued by the O/o Chief Postmaster General.

(b) The Postmaster of paying post office is personally responsible to ensure that part payment against Anticipated Endowment Assurance is made to the correct policy holder. The post office can deny part payment if satisfactory evidence about,the identity of the payee is not established.

(c) Only one complaint was received in Sarojini Nagar Post Office during the month of Nov '96 in respect of Anticipated Endowment Assurance Policy No. DL—AEA—2573—C sanctioned on 13.11.96 by the Chief Postmaster General, Delhi Circle, from Sh. .Ashok Kumar Sharma who was denied first survival benefit by the Sarojini Nagar Post Office as he could not produce witnesses before effecting payment on being asked to do so.

(d) No complaint was received directly in the CPMG Office. However a copy of the complaint dt. 29.11.96 from Shri A.K. Sharma mentioned in the reply to item (c) above was obtained from Senior Postmaster Sarojini Nagar HO on 12.12.96.

(e) Senior Postmaster, Sarojini Nagar HPO has been directed by the Chief Postmaster General, Delhi Circle to arrange payment of survival benefit of Anticipated Endowment Assurance after completing the required formalities.

Mysterious Deaths of BSF Constables

2755. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two constables belonging 50 BN of BSF found dead in 1994 in mysterious circumstances;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry was done and any case registered; and

(d) if so, the agency which made the investigation and details of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) Only one Constable by name Sajimon A.C. of 50 Bn. was found dead on 18th April, 1994. A Court of Inquiry was conducted as per the BSF Act and Rules to enquire into the circumstances leading to the death of Constable Sajimon. The matter was also investigated by civil police. Both the Court of Inquiry and civil police investigations have concluded that it was a case of suicide.

Increase in the Minimum Support Price for Cotton

2756. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES 'be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Minimum Support Price for cotton are being increased every year but the market price remains for above them and the monopoly procurement agencies have rarely had to purchase cotton from growers;

(b) if so, the relevances of Minimum Support Price; and

(c) the steps Government propose to check the increase of cotton price in the market.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L, JALAPPA): (a) to (c) The market prices of cotton are determined by demand and supply.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been increased over the years. Prices of cotton tend to exhibit variations from year to year, as well as in the course of a particular season. In order to guard against any eventuality of price falling below the MSP levels, support prices are fixed and announced by Government every year to protect the interests of the farmers.